

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 6, 10 and 12 as follows, and cancel claims 8, 13, 15 and 17:

1. (currently amended) A device for separating and discharging plasma comprising:
a hollow body;

a separation element comprising a separation fleece as a first zone and a transport fleece as a second zone, wherein

the separation element is configured such that the first zone is accessible for blood application by a user, and

when blood is applied to the first zone, plasma is passed into the second zone, and the remaining blood components are substantially completely retained in the first zone; and

~~a discharge unit configured to act, after plasma separation, substantially on the second zone without the discharge unit having an effect on the first zone so that the separated plasma is released from the second zone and is discharged~~ a plunger configured to be actuated within the hollow body, wherein upon actuation the plunger is configured to detach the second zone from the first zone and press the second zone against a wall of the hollow body to discharge the separated plasma through an outlet of the device.

2. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the separation element is a single-use article.

3. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the first zone is positioned within the device laterally next to the second zone such that the ~~discharge unit~~ plunger

acts on the second zone of the separation element substantially perpendicular to the plane in which the separation element is located.

4. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the second zone is positioned in a movable holder within the device.

5. (previously presented) The device of claim 4, wherein the holder is configured to rotate about 90° resulting in a detachment of the second zone from the first zone.

6. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the second zone is configured to detach from the first zone and the detachment and release of plasma from the second zone occur in two consecutive steps by actuating a button trigger-unit on the device plunger.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled).

9. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the separation element is strip-shaped.

10. (currently amended) A system for detecting analytes in blood comprising:
a hollow body;

a separation element comprising a separation fleece as a first zone and a transport fleece as a second zone, wherein

the separation element is configured such that the first zone is accessible for blood application by a user, and

when blood is applied to the first zone, plasma is passed into the second zone, and the remaining blood components are substantially completely retained in the first zone;

~~a discharge unit configured to act, after plasma separation, substantially on the second zone without the discharge unit having an effect on the first zone so that the separated plasma is released from the second zone and is discharged~~ a plunger configured to be actuated within the hollow body, wherein upon actuation the plunger is configured to detach the second zone from the first zone and press the second zone against a wall of the hollow body to discharge the separated plasma through an outlet of the device; and

a test element that enables detection of an analyte in plasma when the separated plasma is applied.

11. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the structure of the test element is simplified such that there is no plasma separation by the test element itself.

12. (currently amended) A method for plasma separation and discharge comprising:
providing a device comprising:

a hollow body,

~~providing a separation element comprising a separation fleece as a first zone and a transport fleece as a second zone, and~~

a plunger configured to be actuated within the hollow body;

applying blood to the first zone of the separation element~~[[.]]~~;

separating plasma from other blood components by means of the separation element, the blood components being substantially retained in the first zone and the plasma being passed into the second zone of the separation element,

~~processing the second zone without affecting the first zone such that plasma is released from the second zone, and~~

actuating the plunger to detach the second zone from the first zone and press the second zone against a wall of the hollow body; and

discharging the ~~[[released]]~~ separated plasma through an outlet.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising eluting the separated plasma from the second zone.
15. (cancelled)
16. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising separating the plasma by filtering.
17. (cancelled)
18. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising detecting at least one analyte in the blood.
19. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the applied blood volume is between about 30 μ l and about 150 μ l.
- 20-21. (cancelled)
22. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one analyte is high density lipoproteins.